

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division, the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

Preparing for the future ...



Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, who visited Stewart Nov. 4 and Nov. 5, speaks with a Soldier about Army transformation. Preston said that with the ongoing transformation, predictability and stability will come to the Soldier and his family. See the story on page 3A.

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Defense Act increases pay, provides benefits

Jim Garramone
Armerican Forces Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed the \$420.6 billion National Defense Authorization Act Oct. 28.

The bill makes up 19.9 percent of the total fiscal 2005 federal budget and 3.6 percent of the gross domestic product. Last year, the percentages were 20.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

The authorization act is the second of two bills that had to become law for the Defense Department to operate. The first is the Defense Appropriations Act, which the president signed into law Aug. 5. The appropriations act provides the money; the authorization act gives DoD the OK to spend it.

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‘Relevant and ready’ ... 3rd Inf. Div. attends AUSA convention

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
50th PAD

WASHINGTON — Eleven 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers represented the division at the 2004 Annual Meeting and Exposition of the United States Army in Washington Oct. 25 through Oct. 27.

The theme of this year’s convention was Our Army at War — Relevant and Ready.

The convention started out Oct. 25 with an opening ceremony featuring the U.S. Army band and the 3rd U.S. Infantry presenting the colors and a video presentation.

During the convention Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston had a chance to talk to more than 200 noncommissioned officers.

“We’re going to grow the Army over the next three years from 33 brigade combat teams to 43 brigade units of action with an option to grow to 48 by 2007,” Preston said. “The 3rd Inf. Div. was the ‘tip of the spear’ in transforming the Army. That transformation was really hard.”

Later he said, “We took the 3rd Inf. Div. through a partial transformation in terms of equipment. We are writing the doctrine now on how these new brigades will function in the future.”

Not only were there briefings, luncheons and a dinner but over 500 industries and military exhibits were displayed giving the attendees a chance to find about different units and equipment.

“It was great seeing the booths and displays,” said Command Sgt. Major William S. Grant, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major. “Each organization has a



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Command Sgt. Maj. William S. Grant, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major, speaks to 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers about the good and bad points of the new Army uniform at the AUSA conference.

unique history.”

While in Washington, Grant went to briefings and luncheons. He also saw the different equipment that is available.

Other briefings that occurred were AUSA military family forums which discussed stabilizing Soldiers and families while waging the global war on terrorism, meeting the family needs of an Army at war, and Army civilian professional development seminars which discussed implementing transformation for the civilian workforce.

The AUSA Annual Meeting is a great thing, Grant added. It is a chance to travel and meet different people. It offers a unique experience to reminisce with your peers.

416th Trans. Co. deploys to Iraq

Sgt. R. James Piper
Editor

The Hunter Army Airfield-based 416th Transportation Company deployed Oct. 24 to Iraq for its second rotation for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I’m here to serve my country and do what I have to stay positive,” said Sgt. Joenar Abejoin, a team leader with the 416th.

Before flying out from the airfield, a ceremony was held for the Soldiers where about 300 family members, friends and peers gathered to say goodbye to the company.

For Abejoin, he said farewell to his wife, and said, “I’m already sad, but I know my wife is strong, and she supports me.”

The 260th Quartermaster Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. John H. Sutton, said, “They are trained professionals, and they are ready.”

The 416th’s main mission is to haul bulk fuel to where it’s needed.

The unit has trained on the tasks they will need while deployed and have conducted combat live

fire exercises to sharpen their marksman skills.

The unit has been on rotations to the Joint Readiness Center at Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in preparation of the deployment.

“The training has been very successful,” said Spc. Allen McNeal, a transportation operator for the 416th.

Many of the Soldiers in the company have already done one rotation with the unit and others have deployed with their old units.

Everyone takes different aspects from their experiences that benefits the unit, said Pfc. John Saby, a heavy wheel mechanic with the 416th.

McNeal returned from Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division in April and moved to the 416th in August and said the previous deployment will help him know what he is going into.

“I gained a lot of experience on the road and know a lot of the areas,” he said.

During the 416th’s first deployment they were attached to the 49th QM Bn. from Fort Lee, Va. The company was home for about 10 months before deploying again.

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Post office renamed to honor local Soldier

Spc. Robert Adams

50th PAD

The name change of the Holiday, Fla., post office to the Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith building became official Friday at a dedication ceremony in honor of their fallen hero.

Smith, a former 3rd Infantry Division Soldier and Medal of Honor nominee for his heroic actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom, will forever have his name placed in his hometown for everyone to remember him.

"Every time somebody walks into the post office, they will know what freedom means," said Janice Pvirre, Smith's mother. "We are so proud of him and have been honored in so many ways, but we would rather have him home."

The post office isn't the first to honor Smith, in which his name already adorns an Army Research Center in Orlando and a street sign at MacDill Air Force Base.

"There are over 200 postal facilities in our district and this is the first building to ever be renamed to honor an individual," said Michael P. Jordan, U.S. Postal Service Manager, Suncoast District. "I hope the dedication of this post office will serve as a reminder of his sacrifice and the sacrifices worn by all of those that serve in the military."

Smith's family members, fellow Soldiers he fought with, Command Sgt. Maj. William Grant, 3rd Inf. Div command sergeant major, and Congressman Mike Bilirakis, had the chance to share memories, stories and pay respect to their hero who died serving his country.

"We can remember a husband that cherished his wife; we can praise a father who loved his children, and we can recall a Soldier who cared for his men. We can celebrate the life and legacy of a man who gave his last full measure of devotion to his country," Bilirakis said.

On April 4, 2003, Soldiers of Smith's platoon were setting up a prisoner of war holding area near the Baghdad airport when they were ambushed by more than one hundred Iraqi Soldiers. With his Soldiers safety in mind, Smith manned a .50 caliber machine gun and killed a great number of Iraqis while his Soldiers reached safety. Unfortunately, Smith lost his life.

"Smith was an American Soldier, a member of a team, and he served the people of the United States, and he lived the Army values," Grant said. "He laid down his life for his Soldiers, and for that, his division and this nation is forever grateful."

The Soldiers that spoke of Smith talked about how he was a tough noncommissioned officer.

"He was by the book, about meeting the standard, doing things the right way and getting the mission accomplished," said Sgt. Luis Berwald, E

Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment squad leader, who was directly involved in the battle with Smith at the airport.

"He was hard on us at times, but that was only because he wanted us to succeed on the battlefield and we did," added Sgt. Matthew Keller, E Co., 2/7 Inf. "I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work for such a great person."

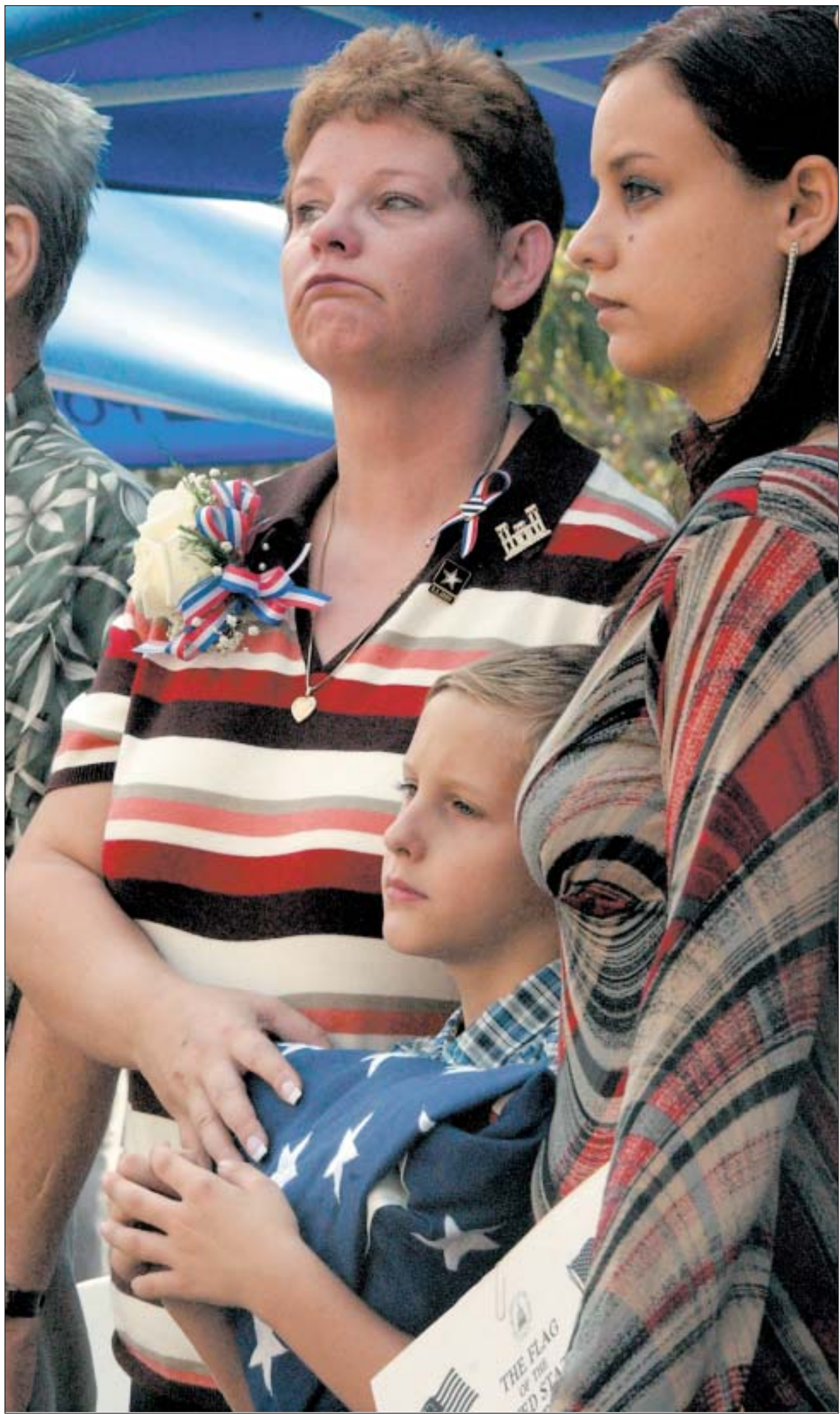
Smith has made an impact on many people's lives and has brought them closer to each other.

"I am grateful I keep in touch with his boys (Smith always referred to his Soldiers as his boys). Whenever they need me I will be there for them 24 hours a day," said his wife Birgit Smith.

The ceremony which included the unveiling of the plaque that will be placed in the post office concluded with a presentation of an American flag to Birgit Smith and her family.

Bilirakis said, "Smith's legacy will endure through the lives of the men that he saved, in hearts of those who loved him and the minds of those who will remember his courage and bravery by visiting this post office."

THIS BUILDING IS
NAMED IN HONOR
OF
SGT FIRST CLASS
PAUL RAY SMITH
BY ACT OF CONGRESS
PUBLIC LAW 108-292
JUNE 25, 2004



Photos by Spc. Robert Adams

(left to right) Birgit, David and Jessica Smith hold an American flag that was presented to them in honor of Sergeant 1st Class Paul R. Smith, a medal of honor nominee who lost his life in Iraq.



Veola Drain, a United States Postal Service clerk, sings the national anthem at the post office dedication ceremony Friday in Holiday, Fl.



(left to right) Command Sgt. Maj. William Grant, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major, Birgit Smith, and the Honorable Mike Bilirakis unveils the plaque that dedicates the Holiday, Fla., post office dedication ceremony to Smith Friday.



The 3rd Infantry Division color guard marches to present the division's and nation's colors.



The Honor Guard of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10167 fold up the American flag that was presented to the Smith family.



(left to right) Janice and Donald Pvirre, the parents of Sergeant 1st Class Paul R. Smith, Birgit his wife, Jessica his daughter and Christina his sister, listen to the kind words spoken of their lost family member.

SMA visits Stewart

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Associate Editor

The Sergeant Major of any military branch is an extremely busy person, but he is also a person who tries to spare any time possible to talk and listen to the servicemembers he represents.

The 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston, is no exception.

Preston recently completed a visit to Fort Stewart, which included seeing the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division at various training sites in action Monday and Tuesday.

"I served all last year in Iraq with the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, and it was important for me to come back to see them, the commander and see how they were doing in transformation and their preparations for future deployment," Preston said.

As Sergeant Major of the Army, Preston serves as the Army Chief of Staff's personal advisor on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life.

He devotes the majority of his time to traveling throughout the Army observing training, and talking to Soldiers and their families. He sits on a wide variety of councils and boards that make decisions affecting enlisted Soldiers and their families and is routinely invited to testify before Congress.

Despite a busy schedule and demanding job, Preston took the time to visit units in the field, as well as address a large crowd of Soldiers in Woodruff Theater from questions on pay, deployment, assignments, but mostly about the Army transformation.

Preston said that with the ongoing transformation, predictability and stability will come to the Soldier and his family.

"We are going to have tailored enlistment contracts like three years, six months," Preston said. "For six months the Soldier will go through Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training."

"Then when they arrive to their unit, they will stay with the units for three years," Preston said. "This means that spouses will now have time to move up in their firms and businesses and have careers, not jobs, and kids will not be moving so much and can invest more time in school activities, sports and scholarships."

Another thing the transformation will be doing is increasing the size of the Army and its combat personnel, which is already visible in the size of the 3rd Inf. Div.

"The Army has 15 brigades in Iraq," Preston said. "Just with the changes of the 3rd Inf. Div. we have added a 34th brigade to the Army with a possible 15 more brigades by 2007."

"3rd Inf. Div. is halfway through the transformation," Preston said. "You will finish the rest when you get back"

Preston added that the Army is transforming to increase the size of combat units to allow for possible shorter rotations in the future for Iraq.

"There is not an Army out there in the world that we can go to with questions about transformations," Preston said. "We are writing doctrines right now as we speak, we will take the lessons learned from this transformation and apply it to other parts of the Army."

With the Soldiers of 3rd Inf. Div. heading back to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, Preston said the Soldiers are doing a good job preparing.

"The Soldiers here are doing a magnificent job," Preston said. "I spent some time with them on the ranges, at the NCO

See SMA, Page 5A



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gallagher, 1st Bde. command sergeant major, watches on as Soldiers from 3/69 Armor conduct reflexive fire training during a field exercise Oct. 28.

3/69 conducts new maneuvers

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

1st Bde.

Soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment conducted live fire training with new equipment Oct. 28 in preparation for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Soldiers tested new weapons systems and maneuver techniques that will be more conducive to the type of missions they will have to perform in Iraq.

"This is my last opportunity to take my company out to the range and qualify them on their individually assigned weapons," said Capt. Keith Kramer, A Co. commander. "We want to zero our weapons that we've recently drawn as part of our rapid fielding initiative. We also want to test our new optic sights that we've drawn."

Adjusting to the improvements added to their weapons systems was part of the exercise.

"This is a magnificent weapon," said Pfc. Anthony Posuniak, and infantryman with A Co., 3/69 Armor. "I'm glad they gave it to me, it's going to do great in Iraq."

A Co.'s M-4 and M-16A2 rifles were recently fitted with a new optic sight, a fluted stainless steel barrel, an extendable bipod and non removable hand grips. The trigger of the rifle has been changed to fire with four pounds of pressure instead of nine pounds on

the previous trigger. The three round burst feature has also been removed from the current weapon.

"This weapon fires a round that travels on a flatter path for longer distances," Posuniak said. "It is accurate up to 800 meters. It feels better and it shoots better."

The M-240B and the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon also received the new optic sights, as well as shorter barrels, Kramer said.

Aside from the new additions to their weapons systems, the Soldiers were put through different types of live fire movements, such as stress shooting and reflexive fire.

"With the stress shoot, I am able to raise Soldiers heart rates and teach them to shoot during a (casualty evacuation)," Kramer said.

Soldiers conduct individual movement techniques while firing their weapon and conducting a three to five second rush, Kramer said. Once they get about 50 meters down range, there is a 60 pound dummy wearing an interceptor flak jacket. The Soldiers have to low crawl and carry the dummy 50 meters to an extraction point.

"The Soldiers are working under stress. The Soldiers have to think about what they are doing while thinking about how tired they are," Kramer said.

"Reflexive fire is the process of

teaching Soldiers to shoot instinctively in a rapid controlled by simply looking over the sight of their weapon," Kramer said. "This type of exercise is done at very short ranges, much like the distance they will be shooting while engaging the enemy when we deploy."

A group of high ranking officers from Washington came to observe the training that took place. The group was accompanied by Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, 3rd Infantry Division commander and Brig. Gen. Karl R. Horst, assistant division commander (maneuver).

"We are training our Soldiers to be a quick, competent, lethal fighting force," said Lt. Col. Mark Wald, 3/69 Armor commander.

The stress fire will help Soldiers prepare for their mission by teaching them to multi-task as well as perform duties they are comfortable doing under tiring, stressful conditions, Kramer said.

"The reflexive fire will certainly benefit Soldiers who are on a cordon and search, or have to engage insurgents or anti-coalition forces in narrow streets," Kramer said. "They have to have controlled, discriminatory fire, so they don't hit unarmed civilians. These guys are great shots, and they are going to go forth and do great things."

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Lane Down Range
Opinions gave me a new view

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane
1st Bde.

I would like to apologize to my readers on the recent article I wrote concerning stop loss / stop movement. I would like to say that I cannot truly justify my comments as I am not affected by the policy.

I totally understand the frustrations of Soldiers affected by this policy. The Army is not for everyone, and I realize that some of you who have already deployed will be going back against your will for a second rotation.

There are pros and cons to the policy, most of the pros being on the Army's side and most of the cons being on the Soldier's side.

I cannot give an honest opinion on how I feel because I am not in that boat. What I can say is that the policy was listed in your contract. The back-door draft as many are call-

ing it is some-thing you agreed to when you signed your contract. I personally walked out of the military entrance processing station after being backed into a corner by two recruiters who were trying to make me sign something I didn't agree to.

I took my contract home and pored over it like a lawyer. At my age, however, I was accustomed to contracts and small print. I did read the clause on stop loss and inactive ready reserve so I knew what I was getting into.

Maybe a lot of you didn't. Or maybe you did and now that it is becoming a reality, you just don't like it. I can't say I blame you, especially if you feel you have already served your

Commentary



country on the battlefield and now you have plans for your life that may be cut short by some young kid in Iraq willing to blow himself up in the name of god.

I can offer no solace on the matter. There is a case in California where an Army National Guard Soldier was excused from deployment after taking the case to federal court.

Unless you have a big stash of cash for attorney fees or have a lawyer willing to take your case on pro bono status, you really have no other outlet.

There are many things about the Army we cannot change, but the policies and regulations of the Army are not made to cater to the individual Soldier.

Many people who work for the Army have to almost develop a sense of indifference when dealing with Soldiers.

I just want to say that I am not indifferent. I will be in theater with everyone who is going and I will do my best to watch my fellow Soldier's back. I think that is what this policy is for; to have seasoned Soldiers in the battlefield so that all of us can come back alive.

After talking to many Soldiers and hearing their opinions, I have had a change of heart. I don't think I have talked to anyone who is happy about their situation. I don't think I would be either.

There is really nothing we can do about this policy, as we agreed to it when we signed our contract. I guess the best thing to do is count our losses and be sure to thoroughly read anything we sign our names to in the future.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"What is your opinion on political ads?"

"They need to not run them as much."

Spc. Denne Adair
Hq. Co., USAG



"They seem a little phony."

Pvt. David Carender
110th Qm. Bn.



"I wish they would get to the point more and be more positive."

Amy Guzman
Spouse



"I get tired of seeing them; it is a lot of mudslinging."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Troy A. DeGolyer
A Co., 1/3 Avn.



"The people who make them should be held accountable."

Maj. Harry Heiser
Hq AMC IG



"They should spend more time on the issues."

Spc. Christopher McNamara
1/75th Ranger



Read this article, and I'll lower your taxes

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

Is it over yet?
It is? Great! I thought I'd never be able to turn my television back on.

For months, I haven't been able to watch one show on TV or listen to the radio for 20 minutes without being inundated with pleas by this candidate or that one to exercise my personal rights as a voter and help him take his rightful place next to the left hand of God.

Actually, it's usually Congress, or State Senate, or County Chairperson, or Homecoming Queen, or virtually any other position that requires election, but you'd never know that from the somber, desperate tone of the messages being spewed forth day and night from that harmless-looking little electronic box that turns into a machine of unending, torturous, political propaganda every couple of years.

I have to say, if I was eligible to vote in the great state of Georgia and received my candidates' information solely from watching TV, I would end up thoroughly confused, and who wouldn't?

In case you're one of the few who is smart enough to have crawled under a rock for the duration of this election season, let me sum up just what it is that has convinced me to go without my favorite shows for the last few weeks.

It's slime.
Yep, pure, unadulterated slime, and it goes, more or less, like this:

Commentary



"Hi, I'm John/Jane Doe, your local candidate for some office that you may or may not have heard of. I'm the perfect choice for you, because I agree with you about everything. I can stop crime, abolish taxes, send your kids to college, and keep you from ever having to pay for a hospital visit again. Heck, I can even marry off your unwed sons and daughters — no matter what their sexual preference — and while I'm at it, I'll keep them off drugs, which would never have even entered this state if you morons had elected me LAST time. I approved this message, and why wouldn't I? It makes me look like Superman! By the way, did I mention that I love you? Vote for me."

Or, like this:
"My opponent personally visited your children at school and gave them those crack pipes they're smoking out of. He also uses your tax dollars to pay for sex and liquor, which he uses during the time he says he is working for you. He's a liar and a cheat, and his wife is a terrorist. Also, he ran over your dog while he was on his way to sign a bill that would raise your taxes, foreclose on your home, put you on the street, and surrender

your daughters for use in his harem. Yes, he has a harem. Plus, he hates you with every fiber in his body. I'm John/Jane Doe, and I approved this message because I'm a proud American. If you don't vote for me, my opponent's wife and all the other terrorists will destroy everything good in the world, and zombies will eat you."

Can you see why I got a little, tiny bit fed up?

Can you see why I came THIS CLOSE to hurling my television set through the window of the nearest candidate?

Can you see why I finally just gave up and decided that watching Judge Judy rip into a defendant just wasn't worth the agony that I had to go through every time there was a commercial break?

Good, because — you guessed it! — I have a solution.

Next time an approaching election results in such a flood of revolting noise, the only thing we can do is this:

Lock each candidate in a room with every luxury in the world, but make sure that the prominent thing in sight is a huge television that stays on, full-volume, 24 hours a day, playing the candidate's own commercials over and over and over and over and over again.

The first one to curl up into a ball on the floor and start crying is the most sane, and therefore should win the election.

Problem solved! Now please excuse me, it's almost prime time.



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DEFENSE

from page 1A

The bill raises the end-strength level of the Army and Marine Corps by 20,000 and 3,000, respectively. Army end-strength will be set at 502,000; Marines, 178,000.

In addition, the bill funds a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for servicemembers and eliminates out-of-pocket expenses for housing by increasing the basic allowance for housing. The bill also makes permanent increases in hostile fire/imminent danger pay to \$225 per month and in family separation pay to \$250 per month.

The bill also allows the base realignment and closure process to move forward. The House version of the bill would have delayed the process for two years.

The bill authorizes a number of programs for reserve-component servicemembers.

On the medical side, it provides for up to 90 days of Tricare coverage for reservists and their families who are mobilized. It also authorizes 180 days of transitional Tricare health benefits for reservists, active-duty members and their families after separation from active duty.

In addition, members of the selected reserve earn a year's eligibility for Tricare for each 90 days of service in a contingency. "If a Guardsman or reservist has served for at least 30 days called up on a contingency operation, then had 90 days of service," said Dr. William Winkenwerder in an Oct. 29 interview, "for each 90 days of service, they're eligible for a full year of Tricare coverage if they sign up for another year of reserve service." Winkenwerder is assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The bill authorizes a new reserve-component educational assistance program tied to the Montgomery GI Bill. The provision has different rates, depending on the length of active-duty service. It is 40 percent for service of 90 days to one year, 60 percent for one year to two years, and 80 percent for more than two consecutive years.

The bill also speeds up concurrent-receipt payments for retirees rated 100 percent disabled. In the past, retirees had their pay docked dollar for dollar by the amount of disability payments the Department of Veterans Affairs paid them. Last year, Congress authorized a phase-in process that would eliminate the concurrent-receipt prohibition over a decade.

On the family- and bachelor-housing front, the bill eliminates a statutory ceiling on the privatization of housing. In the program, which allows DoD to leverage public money with private contractors, the services can build and renovate family and bachelor housing.



Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston answers questions from 603rd ASB Soldiers about life in the Army Nov. 1.

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

SMA

from page 3A

Academy talking to the NCOs and across the board, unit by unit, everybody that I saw had great attitudes and a great outlook on what's coming on down the road for deployment."

With the Soldiers of 3rd Inf. Div. aware of their next deployment, Preston leaves Soldiers with one message.

"For all the Soldiers out there, my focus when I go out and see them is on training. There is no substitute for experience. For the units and unit leaders, focus on getting your Soldiers as much experience as you can. Take advantage of the training opportunities you've got each day to train Soldiers and prepare them for combat operations," Preston said.



Chaplain (1st Lt.) Chris Wallace holds his 5-month old son Bradley as his 3-year-old daughter, Kariss, shows him the sign she made for the redeployment ceremony held at Fort Stewart for the 812th Transportation Battalion Oct. 26.

Sgt. Raymond Piper

Soldier and Family Day

Sunday, Nov. 14

The Catholic communities of Fort Stewart and Hunter are sponsoring a pre-deployment opportunity for Soldiers and families to join together in worship, social activities and fun events. We want each and every member of our military community to come out and enjoy and cultivate mutual support and friendship.

Mass will be offered at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Ga. Following mass there will be a social gathering for couples and singles, a youth ministry event for teens, and activities for children ... all in the DeSoto Hilton. At 6 p.m., adjacent to the DeSoto Hilton, there will be a candlelight prayer service in Madison Square to conclude our day.

A reason to celebrate...



Dianne Borges

New family housing in the Fort Stewart Liberty Woods community is nearly complete. GMH Military Housing and Residential Communities Initiative will have the first of the new family housing completed on schedule. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Nov. 17 to celebrate the opening of the new homes.



University of Georgia cadets practice for the Seminole Challenge Oct. 22.

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Cadets battle for title in Ranger Challenge

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Staff Writer

During an action-packed weekend, 189 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from 21 colleges and universities arrived at Hunter Army Airfield to compete in the eighth annual Ranger Challenge, hosted by the 6th ROTC Brigade from Oct. 22 to Oct.24.

The teams were divided into three tiers for the overall competition, and judged all together for the Spirit Stick competition, Commander's Cup and Seminole Challenge.

This year's top winner was the cadet team from Florida State University, who took the title from 2003 champions Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The contests consisted of various team-building and Soldier-skills events, including the Seminole Challenge, weapons assembly, the hand-grenade assault course and a leadership exam.

The individual schools were also judged on team spirit, and the winner of that competition was awarded the Spirit Stick.

"This is the varsity sport of Army ROTC," said Maj. Brett Clark, 6th Brigade operations officer. "It's important for all the battalions to be able to get together and compete like this ... it builds esprit de corps."

The teams train for the Ranger Challenge all year long, with many beginning to prepare since the end of last year's competition.

"We've done a lot more focused training this year," said Erik Norman, University of Florida team captain, on the first day of the event. "We're pretty well rounded, and I think we're going to do well this year."

His teammate, U of F Cadet Scott Young, added, "We've tried to prep ourselves the entire semester ... I'm pretty confident our team will do well."

Norman said a big part of being the best relies on team cohesion.

"If you clash within your own team, there's no way you can win," he remarked.

Still, he's not above a little friendly trash-talking, which he proved by adding, "We came out here to stomp these other teams, and we're going to do that."

Which they proceeded to do, as U of F placed second in their tier when the totals were tallied up, losing only to the University of Tampa.

First-tier winners were Florida State University (first place), Florida Institute of Technology (second place), and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (third place).

In the second-tier, Tampa and U of F beat third-place University of Central Florida, and the third-tier placers were Georgia Institute of Technology (first), University of Puerto Rico in Rio Pedras (second), and University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez (third).

The team with the most officially recorded spirit was Florida International University, the Commander's Cup went to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Florida Institute of Technology took home first place in the Seminole Challenge.

Still, despite the honor and glory that goes along with winning first place, the Ranger Challenge is more than a contest to determine who is the best of the best.

"It's great training," Norman said. "It's always fun, and it's always competitive."

Send-off Party

The members of the Hunter Post Gym aerobics class are holding a send off party for the deploying Soldiers and families.

It will be held at the Hunter gym Sat from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please RSVP if you're going to attend by calling Robin at 921-0667.

DJ Doel will spin latin hits throughout the party. Attendees are welcome to bring a favorite recipe. There will be an opportunity for participants to showcase there talents, be it singing, a poem they wrote or a skit or play they would like to perform. There will also be a chance to pay tribute to the Soldiers.

The organizers are encouraging all family members of deployed Soldiers to attend the party also.

Can-do infantrymen prepare for deployment

Spc. Natalie Loucks
3rd Bde.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Many may not have been aware of this but there were riots, car bombs, mortar explosions, enemy fire attacks and women giving birth on the battle field on Fort Benning Oct. 19 to 22.

3rd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment conducted a realistic field training exercise at Cactus Range. The training included scenarios Soldiers might see while deployed to Iraq.

According to Capt. Jim Hathaway, who works in operations for 1/15, this was the final training of its kind before the troops deploy for Iraq early next year.

Hathaway said the purpose of the training was to give Soldiers direct interaction in handling and controlling situations that have previously occurred in Iraq.

This kind of training gives the Soldiers familiarization with the scenarios they will see in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Gary Brito, Battalion Commander of the 1/15 Infantry Regiment. When Soldiers encounter similar scenarios overseas, they will recognize them and have a better understanding of what actions to take.

Leadership during training had to react quickly and was not given the opportunity to ask for guidance. These leaders were the platoon and squad leaders and sometimes the Soldiers themselves.

Brito, who has been in command for five months, said the live-fire exercises train Soldiers in discipline, muzzle awareness and identifying friendly and enemy forces.

The scenarios for the exercise are influenced by news coverage in Iraq, Brito said. The improvised explosive devices are prevalent in the news. Also, Soldiers in Iraq have to deal with crowd control.

"Not everybody in a crowd is a combat-

ant," Brito said. "Just because they are Iraqi doesn't mean they want to hurt (Americans)."

Brito said that realistically, Soldiers may aid each other as well as Iraqi people in need of medical attention.

According to Hathaway, there are three main objectives for the Soldiers to control during the exercise.

The first objective was maintaining order at traffic control points.

The training began when a riot broke out at the traffic control point. Key people in the riot included religious figures, an interpreter, the media and a pregnant Iraqi woman.

"The Soldiers have to abide by the (Iraqi) rules of engagement," explained Hathaway.

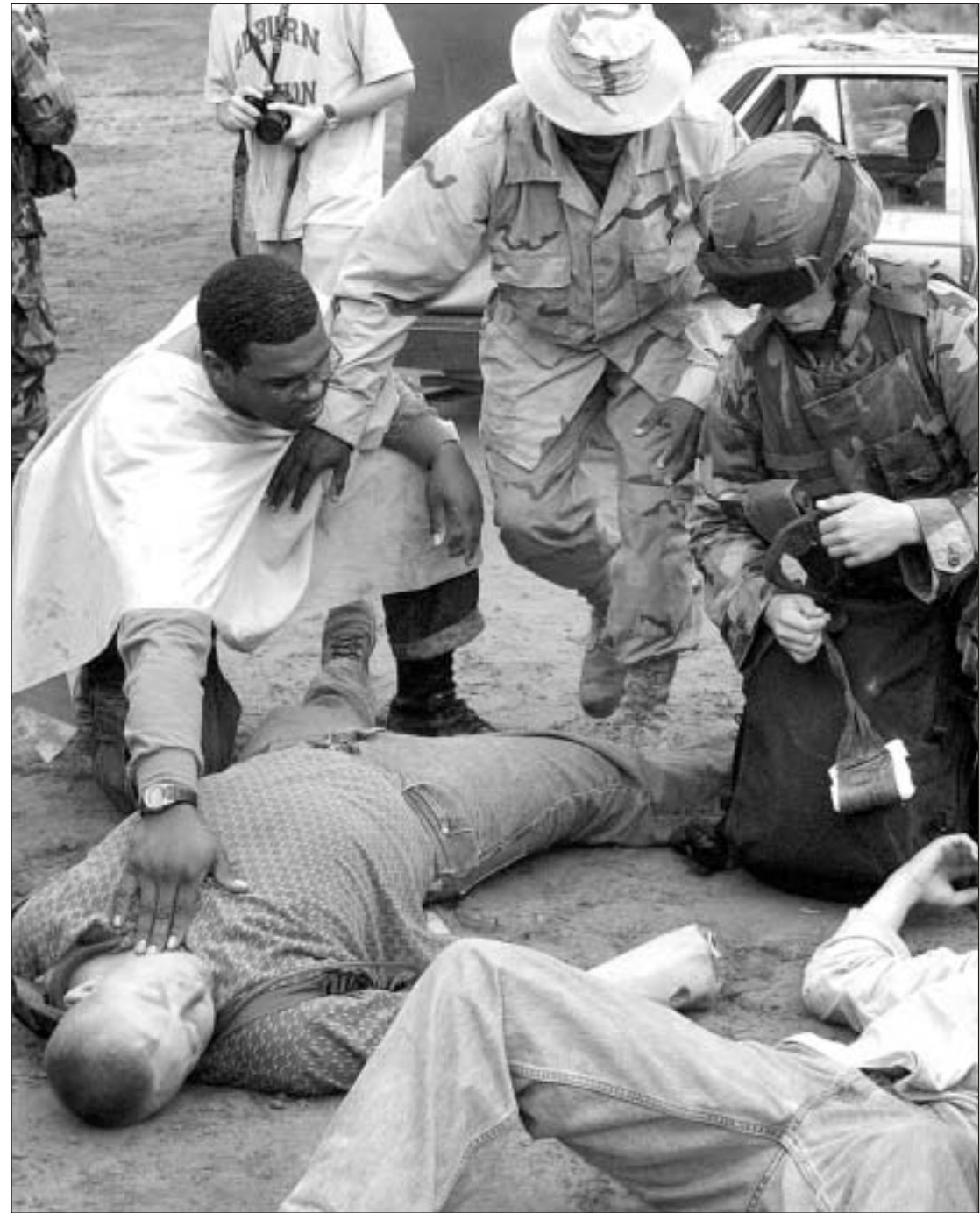
According to Iraqi traditions, the Iraqi women are only to be touched by their husbands or other women. The Soldiers have to be careful not to violate this custom when helping them.

"Dealing with women is something that we have to train on," said Brito "Especially since, in the infantry, we are all male. We do have to make the guys conscious of that."

As Soldiers were engaged in the riot, a car with a bomb inside pulled up to the scene.

"It was pretty accurate," said Spc. Donald Dennis, a Soldier assigned to Company D, 1/15 and who has been to Iraq before. "In Iraq, the streets are more crowded and, personally, I have never had to deal with the media but situations like these did happen."

The second training objective was a mass-casualty exercise occurring in another area of the range. In this area, an Iraqi National Guard site was hit by explosives. There were multiple victims and Soldiers that had to evacuate the area and



Photos by Spc. Natalie Loucks

A Soldier from 1/15 Infantry rushes to provide aid to a simulated casualty.



Soldiers from 1/15 detain "insurgents" for questioning.



Burning vehicles pour soot into the air during the training, which was designed to be very realistic.

If you accidentally discover an archaeological site on Fort Stewart:



1. Cease what you are doing immediately.
2. Notify Range Control at 767-8777.
3. Do not attempt to unearth the object or remove it.



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3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Special Olympic Games
Volunteers are needed for the 2004 Winter games at Marne and Stewart Lanes, Dec. 3. Any assistance is welcome and rewarding.

Troop to GaTAPP III
The Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program is open to current or retired military, dependents, or residents of the general vicinity who hold baccalaureate degrees with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
For more information, call 767-8331.

Retirement ceremony
The monthly retirement ceremony is Nov. 18. There will be no ceremony in Dec. For more information, call 767-5851/8799.

Newman Fitness Center
The facility will be closed Nov. 29, for renovation and will remain closed until completed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Hurricane assistance
Coordinated efforts of the City Council of Richmond Hill and Fort Stewart to contribute can goods, diapers, school supplies, toiletries, money and any item used in every day activities is needed.
These items will be sent to victims of the recent disasters in Florida.
Drop off areas are the Fort Stewart Commissary and Bldg. 170. Deadline for these contributions is Sunday. Support for

this disaster relief drive is needed.
For more information, call Windy Hunter at 572-4650.

Town Hall Meeting
The next scheduled meeting will be at Club Stewart, today, at 6:30 p.m.

Fall Crafts Extravaganza
Family oriented event Saturday. Enjoy free kiddie rides, hay rides, music, and food. Rent a table to sell your goods. Yard sales also held in housing areas.
No permits required. For more information, call 767-8326/8228.

Basketball/Cheerleading
Youth Services members can register before Dec. 13 at Bldg 443, or call 767-4371.

Brunch with Santa
A holiday brunch and bazaar with Santa is planned Nov. 21 at Club Stewart. For more information, call 368-2212.

Indebtedness claim
Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pfc. David E. Cromwell, Jr., D Co., 1/3 Avn. Regt., Attack Helicopter Bn., contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Campbell at 912-429-7780 or 912-228-0554.

Resume Workshop
A resume writing workshop is scheduled for Nov. 22, 9:30 a.m. in the ACS Bldg. 253. For more information, call 767-5058.

Hunter

Spouses Club Luncheon
The Hunter Spouses Club has scheduled their November luncheon Tuesday at the Hunter Club. The cost is \$10. For more information, call 927-5666.

Soldier/Family Day With God
The Catholic communities of Fort Stewart and Hunter are sponsoring this event Nov. 14. Mass will be at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, social gathering for singles and couples following mass, a youth ministry event for teens, and activities for children all in the DeSoto Hilton. At 6 p.m. there is a candle light prayer service in Madison Square to conclude the event.

Veteran's Day Dance
American Legion Post 184 in Thunderbolt, Ga., has scheduled a Veteran's Day dance to be held Friday at Post 184 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. The lounge will be open at 4 p.m., and will include the Ladies Auxiliary silent auction from 7 to 9 p.m. Active-duty military and their guest will be admitted to the dance free. Dress is casual. For ticket information, call 713-3863 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Post 184 at 354-5515 Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m.

Holiday Bazaar
The 1st Annual Hunter Thrift Shop Holiday Bazaar is scheduled to be held next to the Thrift Shop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13. Private ven-

dors, arts and crafts, gifts, and more will be available. For more information, please call the Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

Road Closure
Due to the installation of a new sewer line, the intersections of Gannam Avenue and South Perimeter Road (near the youth sports fields) and Gannam Avenue between Farie Drive and Oliver Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic from Nov. 10 through Dec. 10. During these dates, motorists may access Wilson Acres Housing Area by the side street off Wilson Boulevard in the vicinity of the Wilson Gate.

Trip to Jacksonville Zoo
A trip to the Jacksonville Zoo is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13. The bus departs from Fort Stewart Leisure Activities and HAAF Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m. The payment/registration deadline is \$16 by Sunday. Transportation coupons are available for deploying military families. There are two packages available:

- Zoo admission, train tickets, picnic lunch (hamburger or hot dog, salad or chips, cookie or brownie and drink). Price: Adults \$36, children \$30
- Zoo admission, transportation and you take care of the rest. Price: Adults \$24.50, children \$21

Call 767-2841 or 352-5722 for more information. Seats are limited.

Winn /Tuttle

Update DEERS
Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by building 253.

EDIS Family Day
The Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will hold Family Day 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in the EDIS office located at Winn. For more information, call 370-6370.

TRICARE Phone Numbers
For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 1-877-217-7946. If you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Third Party Insurance
Individual's social security numbers will no longer be displayed on health insurance cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call the Third Party

Insurance Office at 370-6037/6947 for more information.

Tobacco Cessation Classes
You must take the "Ready to Quit" class before you can take the Tobacco Use Cessation class. The "Ready to Quit" class is available 11 a.m. Nov. 10 and 24 on a walk-in basis. The Tobacco Use Cessation class at Winn will be held 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday from Dec. 9 to 30. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday from Dec. 7 to 28. The class will help you kick the habit, whether smoking, chewing or dipping. To register at Winn, call 370-5071. To register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Full Service PX Pharmacy
The full service Satellite PX Pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

PX Pharmacy
The PX Satellite Pharmacy is now open for full service business. Patients may fill new prescriptions and refill prescriptions here 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ER Remodeling
The Emergency Department will have minor disruption for remodeling. All emergencies and urgent care patients should still report to the ER. Non-emergency patients are encouraged to schedule appointments with their primary care manager. Appointments, including same-day appointments, may be scheduled by calling 370-6633.

Marne TV

November 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday. Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m. Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m. MARNE REPORT
6:30 a.m. Air Force News
7 a.m. Navy News
7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
8 a.m. MARNE REPORT
9 a.m. Air Force News
9:30 a.m. Navy News
11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
Noon MARNE REPORT

1 p.m. Air Force News
4:30 p.m. Navy News
5 p.m. MARNE REPORT
6 p.m. Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m. Air Force News
7 p.m. Navy News
10 p.m. MARNE REPORT
11 p.m. Army Newswatch
Midnight MARNE REPORT

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of opiates, wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Rape, indecent assault
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 18-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 82/60
- **Location:** Liberty County
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 40-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Cruelty to children in third degree, simple battery, interfering with emergency calls
- **Location:** Allenhurst
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Murder, robbery by a handgun, conspiracy
- **Location:** Mecklenburgh County, Va.
- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 19-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Indecent assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Attempted larceny of private funds, obtaining services under false pretenses, larceny of private property
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended,



- ed, expired license plates, no proof of insurance
- **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** False report of a crime
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Family member, 21-year-old male
 - **Charges:** Driving on a suspended license, failure to appear
 - **Location:** Ludowici
 - **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 37-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charges:** Cruelty to children in the third degree, simple battery, interfering with emergency calls
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
 - **Charges:** Simple assault, damage to private property, unlawful entry
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Walthourville
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Atlanta
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 27-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Speeding 42/25, driving on suspended license, failure to show proof of insurance
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 28-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Aggravated assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Burglary, larceny of private property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 96/70
- **Location:** Richmond Hill
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 92/55, underage drinking
- **Location:** Statesboro
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25 -year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, speeding 77/55, driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 28-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to stop at posted stop sign
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Corporal, 27-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Corporal, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Larceny of government property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, loud music, expired vehicle registration, no proof of insurance
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Rape, forced sodomy
- **Location:** Hunter

CENTCOM News

MNF, ISF detain individuals near Kirkuk

TIKRIT, IRAQ — Multi-National Forces and Iraqi Security Forces detained 22 individuals during a joint operation near Kirkuk Oct. 29 at about 11:30 p.m.

During the operation, the Soldiers conducted searches to prevent future attacks and acts of intimidation in the area. The Soldiers transported the individuals to a MNF detention facility for questioning. Nine of the detainees were known AIF cell members. There were no injuries reported during the operation.

Iraqi highway patrol, MNF quell roadside bomb

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Highway Patrol officers successfully negotiated an anti-Iraq forces' attack Oct. 28, and quickly coordinated a Multi-National Force response near Ramadi, about 70 miles west of Baghdad.

The patrol was engaged west of the town when a small force attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. The IHP force contacted the Joint Coordination Center personnel resulting in the dispatch of MNF support personnel within 15 minutes of contact.

Iraqi Highway Patrol officers linked up with the force, subsequently conducting a joint cordon-and-search of the area, securing the site.

The IHP and MNF reported no casualties in the operation or in the subsequent security mission.

The IHP is a branch of the Iraqi Police Service specifically tasked with securing Iraq's highways and major roadways and providing convoy security for movements within the country.



CENTCOM Photo

1st Infantry Division Soldiers patrol an area near Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, in their Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

MNSTC-1 continues Iraqi equipment and armament efforts

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces continue to receive large shipments of weapons and materiel from the Multinational Security Transition Command – Iraq.

Since Oct. 22, the rollout has included 2,460 AK-47 assault rifles, 460 sleeping bags, 990 sets of body armor, 735,000 9mm pistol rounds, 3,150,000 AK-47 rounds, 1,293 9mm pistols, 2,001 9mm Berretta pistols, and more than 21,000 pairs of desert boots.

All equipment has either been issued to Iraqi Army, Iraqi National Guard, or Iraqi police forces or delivered throughout the country for distribution to personnel.

The Multinational Security Transition

Command – Iraq is specifically tasked with assisting the Iraqi government to train, mentor and equip Iraq's security forces.

Adopt a highway program cleans streets, makes for safer environment

FALLUJAH — The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division has worked with the residents of Baqubah to develop an Adopt-A-Highway program to take back the streets.

Each day, more than 100 workers take to the streets as part of the program. This program has greatly reduced the trash and debris in the streets. Not only are these workers cleaning up the streets but are also making the streets safer for Multi-

National Forces and innocent Iraqis.

Since the program started, Adopt-A-Highway workers have identified and reported a total of 47 improvised explosive devices to the Iraqi police. These workers are identifying potential roadside bombs and taking them off the street, preventing the needless loss of lives of innocent Iraqis.

This program has provided local Iraqis with a source of employment and has instilled the pride of a clean and safe Baqubah.

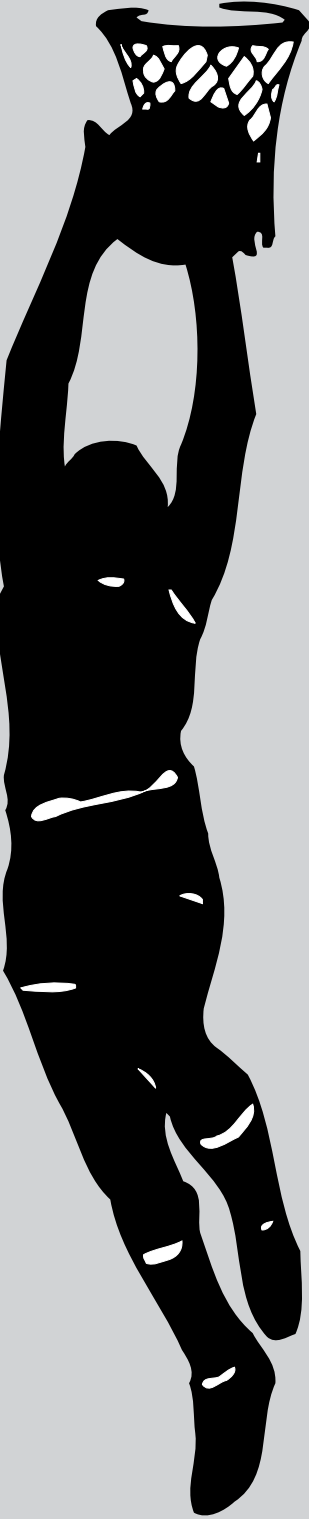
Local Iraqi citizen foils car bomb plot

MOSUL — A Mosul citizen prevented a car bomb attack after the anonymous individual informed Multi-National Forces of the suspected explosive device in the Mosul neighborhood of Al Wahda Oct. 27.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) responded based on the citizen's information, and confirmed anti-Iraqi forces rigged the car with explosives. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed the car bomb.

The citizen's ability to identify the car bomb and courageously inform the appropriate authorities potentially saved the lives of Iraqi Security Forces, Multi-National Forces and Iraqi citizens.

Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces continue to work together with members of the community to make Iraq safe, prosperous and democratic. Local citizens are asked to cooperate with security forces by providing information that leads to the capture and arrest of anti-Iraqi forces.



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INFANTRY

from page 8A

When the site was secure, the Soldiers received information from an informant and had to move into their third objective; a mock town. Brito said the town was built to replicate a real Iraqi town, complete with farmland, a cemetery, a police station, a mosque and obstacles which Soldiers must clear.

According to Hathaway, there are enemies as well as friendly civilians in the town. The Soldiers had to be aware of when and what to shoot, keeping in mind the rules of engagement.

The Soldiers were briefed on the do's and don't's of the battlefield but were not reminded of them as the exercise began. "We want to observe the adherence to the rules of engagement," Brito said.

Spc. Brian Hill, who works in 1/15 operations, said the training was good considering the resources and the terrain the exercises used.

Journalism students from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., aided in the training, acting as both embedded and external reporters from the U.S. and Iraq.

The students would interact with the Soldiers who were engaged in problematic situations. They would aggravate the Soldiers by asking numerous questions related to the incident trying to break the Soldier's concentration.

The mock reporters were testing

the Soldier's responses. They were required to give the reporters enough information to satisfy the reporters making sure they did not disclose sensitive information to the public.

"My heart was racing," said Anna Claire Stamps, a senior communication student at Auburn University. "They treated it like it was real. It was fun to get right up in their faces."

One of the reporters was kidnapped, adding yet another inconvenience for the already occupied Soldiers.

The opportunity to come out to Cactus Range and support the 1/15 Infantry was open to all journalism students from Auburn University.

After each exercise was completed, an after action report was given of the Soldiers' performance. Auburn University students were able to aid in this report on actions they witnessed.

According to Hathaway, training of this nature is conducted once every six months. For many Soldiers of the 1/15 Infantry, this is the first time they have experienced this kind of training.

"Soldiers who have just come out of basic training have never done anything like this," Brito said.

"We have very good Soldiers," he said. "I think the key to our success is well trained disciplined Soldiers and good equipment. The equipment empowers us to do our job better. The trained, disciplined Soldiers and leaders of all ranks make it happen."



Photo by Spc. Natalie Loucks

Auburn University journalism students act as civilian journalists during training to help Soldiers become accustomed to media on the battlefield.

